

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 and 14-17 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-10 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christofferson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,807,563) in view of Knight et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,748).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended, independent claim 2 is cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, and, thus, the pending claims remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTION

According to the foregoing, the patentably distinguishing feature of dependent claim 3 is incorporated in the independent claims 1 and 7-10 and dependent claim 3 is amended into independent form. More specifically, Christofferson and Knight, and in particular Knight, fail to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, the claimed present invention's "**a valid period for the message.**"

The basis for the amendments and argument is, for example, page 25, line 4-13 and page 26, line 10 - page 27, line 12 of the present Application.

A benefit of the claimed present invention is that a user profile is always updated in its latest state by deleting old data. With this configuration, what a user said long time ago will not influence the user profile. Therefore the user profile always reflects the latest status of the user. For instance, this configuration will prevent a user from being considered as a "bad person" based on what he/she said more than ten years ago, or from receiving advertisements about products that do not meet his/her preference anymore. Such effect cannot be obtained simply by creating a user profile as in Knight.

In contrast to Christofferson and Knight, the claimed present invention as generally recited in independent claims 1, 3 and 7-10, using claim 1 as an example, provides:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A profile creation method for use in conversation system having a plurality of terminal devices that can exchange messages among each other, the plurality of terminal devices being connected to a network and sharing one of a plurality of virtual conversation spaces formed on the network, said method comprising:
 - providing predetermined keywords and predetermined categories such that the keywords and categories are correlated to each other;
 - monitoring whether a message sent to a virtual space contains at least one of the keywords;
 - identifying a category that corresponds to a keyword if the message sent to the virtual space contains the keyword, according to the monitoring; and
 - creating a profile of a user by correlating the identified category to the user who sent the message to the virtual space;

storing a valid period for the message and a time at which the message containing the keyword was sent, and

deleting an entry in the user profile upon expiration of the valid period since the time of the message.

Christofferson discusses "An automatic teleconferencing control system uses a trigger definition database to define trigger criteria and corresponding conference control commands for corresponding trigger function" (Abstract). Knight discusses "By studying subscriber query and message traffic, the system can self-tune itself automatically to constantly adjust content retrieval, storage and presentation in response to changing community interests, desires, and the like." A prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established based upon Christofferson and Knight, because the Office Action page 3 relies on Christofferson column 8, line 62 to column 9, line 39 to reject dependent claim 3, which discuss "trigger criteria and trigger control commands associated with a particular trigger function ..." and "participant profile information ... to adapt the trigger definition database to the particular needs of that participant station" (column 9, lines 40-43). However, Christofferson fails to disclose or suggest to one skilled in the art to combine Knight with Christofferson and modify Christofferson in such a combined system to provide the claimed present invention's "**storing a valid period for the message and a time at which the message containing the keyword was sent, and deleting an entry in the user profile upon expiration of the valid period since the time of the message**" since Christofferson

is silent on any type of "a valid period for the message ... and deleting an entry in the user profile upon expiration of the valid period since the time of the message." Christofferson does not create any user profiles to update the user profile by "deleting an entry in the user profile upon expiration of the valid period since the time of the message," but Christofferson uses a user profile for its trigger definition database.

Further, Knight, for example, in column 25, lines 40-43 discusses a user profile, but Knight is silent on "a valid period for the message ... and deleting an entry in the user profile upon expiration of the valid period since the time of the message," so even if one combined Christofferson with Knight the combined system fails to disclose or suggest to one skilled in the art to modify such a combined system to provide the claimed present invention, since both Christofferson and Knight are silent on any type of user profile creation to update the same by providing "a valid period for the message ... and deleting an entry in the user profile upon expiration of the valid period since the time of the message." Further, the claimed present invention provides a new or different function from a combined system of Christofferson and Knight, because a user profile is always updated in its latest state by deleting old data by providing "a valid period for the message." With the claimed present invention's "a valid period for the message," what a user said long time ago will not influence the user profile. Therefore the user profile always reflects the latest status of the user. For instance, this configuration will prevent a user from being considered as a "bad person" based on what he/she said more than ten years ago, or from receiving advertisements about products that do not meet his/her preference anymore. Simply creating or using a user profile as in Christofferson and Knight cannot obtain such a new effect of the claimed present invention.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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